

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for the removal of contaminating materials from pipework, said contaminating materials comprising deposits on the pipework which comprise inorganic salts having low solubility levels, wherein said contaminating materials cause a reduction in the effective internal diameter of the pipes and thereby effect a reduction in the rate of flow of a fluid through the pipework, the method comprising treating said contaminating materials with at least one carbamate salt.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 1 wherein said inorganic salts are deposited from solutions or suspensions in contact with the pipework.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said inorganic salts are comprise phosphate, alkylphosphate, molybdate and phosphomolybdate salts.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 3 wherein said salts comprise the phosphate, butylphosphate, molybdate and phosphomolybdate salts of zirconium, tellurium, gadolinium, caesium, iron and uranium.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any one of claims~~ The method of claim 1 to 4 wherein said contaminating materials comprise blockage partial or total ~~blockages~~ of the pipework.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceeding claim~~ The method of claim 5 wherein said carbamate salt comprises an aqueous solution of a carbamate salt.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceeding~~ The method of claim 1 wherein said carbamate salt comprises ammonium carbamate.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any one of any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 7 wherein said treatment is carried out at a temperature in the range of from 40°C to 60°C.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 8 wherein said temperature is in the region of 60°C.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 9 wherein said treatment is continued for an extended period of time.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 10 wherein said treatment is continued for at least 2 hours.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 11 wherein ~~the concentration~~ of said carbamate is provided in aqueous solution is in the range of from 0.3M to 6.0M.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 12 wherein said concentration is between 1.0M and 3.0M.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment is carried out in the presence of at least one additive.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 14 wherein said additive comprises a carbonate or bicarbonate salt.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 15 wherein said carbonate or bicarbonate salt comprises caesium carbonate or ammonium bicarbonate.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 16 wherein said treatment is preceded by pre-treatment with acid and washing with water.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 17 wherein said pre-treatment and washing is carried out at room temperature.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any of claims~~ The method of claim 1 to 16 wherein said treatment is followed by post-treatment with acid and washing with water.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 19 wherein said post-treatment and washing is carried out at room temperature.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any one of claims~~ The method of claim 17 to 20 wherein said acid comprises nitric acid .
22. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in any preceding claim~~ The method of claim 19 ~~whenever~~ applied to the removal of contaminating materials from pipework in the nuclear processing industry.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 22 ~~which comprises the treatment of~~ comprising treatment pipework used in the processing of Highly Active Liquor with an aqueous solution comprising 0.3 – 1.0M ammonium carbamate and 0.2M caesium carbonate at 60°C for 2 hours.
24. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 22 ~~which comprises the treatment of~~ comprising treating pipework used in the processing of Highly Active Liquor as follows:
 - (a) ~~treatment~~ treating with 2.0M nitric acid at room temperature; followed by
 - (b) washing with water at room temperature; followed by
 - (c) ~~treatment~~ treating with 1.0M or 3.0M aqueous ammonium carbamate solution at 60°C for 2 hours.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in~~ The method of claim 22 ~~which comprises the treatment of~~ comprising treating pipework used in the processing of Highly Active Liquor as follows:

- (a) ~~Treatment~~ treating with 1.0M or 3.0M aqueous ammonium carbamate solution at 60°C for 2 hours; followed by
- (b) ~~Treatment~~ treating with 2.0M nitric acid at room temperature; followed by
- (c) ~~Washing~~ washing with water at room temperature.